

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (New): A method for setting a parameter for external operating units of a welding apparatus, wherein the welding parameters are selectable and settable using different operating elements and display elements provided on the welding apparatus, the method comprising the following steps:

invoking a control program in the welding apparatus;
selectively allocating a selected welding parameter for setting or adjustment to an external operating unit provided on an external component;
setting or changing said welding parameter, based upon activation or adjustment of the external operating unit provided on the external component.

Claim 8 (New): The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of invoking the control program occurs by a renewed

activation of an operating element provided on the welding apparatus.

Claim 9 (New): The method as in claim 7, wherein said step of selectively allocating said selected welding parameter includes selectively allocating a plurality of welding parameters to several external operating units provided on at least one external component.

Claim 10 (New): The method as in claim 7, wherein said step of selectively allocating the selected welding parameter includes storing the welding parameter by using a control or evaluation device.

Claim 11 (New): The method as in claim 10, further comprising the step of evaluating any signals received from the external operating units of the external components, by using a control or evaluation device of the welding apparatus, and further comprising the step of allocating said signals to respective welding parameters.

Claim 12 (New): The method as in claim 7, further comprising the step of transmitting any changes of external operating units to the welding apparatus.